

In the Claims

Please cancel claim 26 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original subject matter in a continuing application.

Please amend claims 17, 24, 29, and 31-33 as follows:

Sub H1 17. (Five Times Amended) A support device for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage of a horse, said device comprising:

a first side piece for applying over said first nasal passage, the first side piece having a plurality of spaced-apart first detachable contact locations;

a second side piece for applying over said second nasal passage, the second side piece having a plurality of spaced-apart second detachable contact locations; and

a bridge piece comprising a strip, the strip including a first lateral region and a second lateral region for attaching and detaching said first lateral region to said first side piece and said second lateral region to said second side piece, the first lateral region being configured for selectively engaging the first side piece at one location of the plurality of spaced-apart first detachable contact locations, and the second lateral region being configured for selectively engaging the second side piece at one location of the plurality of spaced-apart second detachable contact locations, wherein the strip provides different support tensions by selectively engaging the side pieces at different locations of the plurality of first and second detachable contact locations.

Sub H1 24. (Three Times Amended) A nasal support device for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage, the support device comprising:

(a) an adhesive layer for securing the support device to the tissues;

(b) a surface layer, the surface layer configured to include:

(i) a center longitudinal dimension having a center longitudinal axis therethrough;

(ii) a first transverse dimension having a first transverse axis that is orthogonal to said center longitudinal axis and bisects said center longitudinal axis;

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- (iii) a first side and a second side positioned on opposite sides of the first transverse axis;
 - (iv) a first protrusion disposed at the center longitudinal axis that projects outwardly from the first side in a direction generally along the center longitudinal axis; and
 - (v) a second protrusion disposed at the center longitudinal axis that projects outwardly from the second side in a direction generally along the center longitudinal axis; and
- (c) one or more support structures having lengths that extend along the transverse dimension of said surface layer.

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19. (Twice Amended) A nasal support device for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage, the support device comprising:

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- (a) an adhesive layer for securing the support device to the tissues;
 - (b) a surface layer, the surface layer configured to include:
 - (i) a center longitudinal axis;
 - (ii) a first transverse dimension having a first transverse axis that is orthogonal to said center longitudinal axis and bisects said center longitudinal axis;
 - (iii) a first side and a second side positioned on opposite sides of the first transverse axis;
 - (iv) first and second centering structures disposed at the longitudinal axis for use in centering the center longitudinal axis of said nasal support device between the first and second nasal passages;
 - (v) said surface layer having a major longitudinal dimension at the first and second centering structures and reduced longitudinal dimensions positioned on opposite sides of the centering structures; and
 - (c) one or more support structures having lengths that extend along the traverse dimension of said surface layer.

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31. (Amended) The nasal support device of claim 29, wherein:
(a) the first and second centering structures are symmetrically disposed along the center longitudinal axis.

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32. (Amended) The nasal support device of claim 29, wherein:
(a) at least one of the first and second centering structures comprises an apex.

33. (Amended) The nasal support device of claim 29, wherein:
(a) at least one of the first and second centering structures comprises a protrusion.

Please add new claims 41-45.

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41. (New) A nasal support device for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage, the support device comprising:

- (a) an adhesive layer for securing the support device to the tissues;
- (b) a surface layer, the surface layer configured to include:
 - (i) a center longitudinal dimension having a center longitudinal axis therethrough;
 - (ii) a first transverse dimension having a first transverse axis that is orthogonal to said center longitudinal axis and bisects said center longitudinal dimension;
 - (iii) a first side and a second side positioned on opposite sides of the first transverse axis;
 - (iv) a first protrusion disposed at the center longitudinal axis that projects outwardly from the first side in a direction generally along the center longitudinal axis;
 - (v) wherein said first transverse dimension that bisects said center longitudinal dimension is longer than said center longitudinal dimension; and

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(c) one or more support structures having lengths that extend along the transverse dimension of said surface layer.

42. (New) The nasal support device of claim 41, wherein the center longitudinal dimension is greater than any other longitudinal dimension of the surface layer.

43. (New) The nasal support device of claim 41, wherein said surface layer further includes a second protrusion disposed at the center longitudinal axis that projects outwardly from the second side in a direction generally along the center longitudinal axis.

44. (New) The nasal support device of claim 41, wherein the first protrusion comprises an apex.

45. (New) The nasal support device of claim 41, wherein the first protrusion is symmetrically disposed along the center longitudinal axis.